AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Vol X Issue 2 2009

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Photo caption from previous issue should have read: State FFA Vice President ***Matthew Adams*** *(left);* ***Campbell Coxe****, owner of Carolina Plantation Rice; and* ***Don Boice****, ArborOne Financial. Editor was provided incorrect identification information.*

John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

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Vol. X Issue 2 2009

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FFA Family
Yon Farm Receives National Environmental Award

The Yon Family Farms of Ridge Spring, SC, has been named recipient of the National Environmental Stewardship Award by the National Cattlemen's Foundation. The environmental recognition was made possible by the Foundation with co-sponsorship by Dow AgriSciences, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The award was presented to Kevin and Lydia Yon earlier this year at the 2009 Cattle Industry Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

The award recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of US cattle producers. The judges consider the management of water, wildlife habitat, vegetation and soil in addition to the sustainability of the business as a whole. "The Yon family exhibits tremendous stewardship with regard to pasture improvement, forage preservation, crop implementation and water quality improvement," said Dave Petty, chairman of the national selection committee from Eldora, Iowa.

Corbin** (left), **Kevin**, **Sally**, **Drake** and **Lydia Yon

Established in 1996, the farm is family-owned and operated by Kevin and Lydia Yon and their three children, Sally, Drake and Corbin. In just 12 years, the farm has grown from 100 acres and 100 cows to 1500 acres of crop, hay and pastureland and 800 brood cows, most of which are part of the family's diversified Angus seed stock operation. The family works to ensure that the soil and water resources are healthy. They believe in whole-farm conservation, focusing on the big picture when it comes to stewardship.

"You're never done improving the land. We see something every day we want to work on and make better," said Lydia Yon. The Yons have implemented a number of practices aimed at protecting and improving the quality of their land. These include: Irrigating crops with pond-water using an efficient, low pressure watering system; planting crops utilizing conservation tillage equipment; sampling forage and soil to monitor proper fertilizer application; reinforcing more than 34,000 square feet of high traffic areas around barns, water troughs and feed bunks to prevent erosion and protect water quality; installing 43 water troughs and 55,352 feet of fencing to facilitate rotational grazing rotational grazing on pasture land; and managing farm ponds to encourage healthy wildlife habitat.

Kevin and Lydia, both graduates of Clemson University, are former members of the FFA. Lydia was a recipient of the American FFA Degree which is the highest honor bestowed on an FFA member at the national level. Their children, Sally, Drake and Corbin, are members of the Ridge Spring-Monetta High School FFA Chapter. Sally and Drake were members of the state champion FFA Livestock Judging team in 2008 and competed in the national finals during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Yon Family Farms was nominated for this prestigious environmental award by the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District.

Williams Is President-Elect of National Agriculture Organization

JoAnn Williams

JoAnn Williams of Britton's Neck was named president-elect of the National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYEA) at a recent conference held in Baltimore.

An active member of the Britton's Neck chapter, Mrs. Williams has played a major role in the success of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association's annual conferences since 1996. Her husband, Edsel, serves as executive treasurer of the South Carolina group and has held major offices in the national organization.

A life member of the NYEA, Mrs. Williams has served on a number of committees responsible for planning and implementing NYEA National Institutes in Charleston, SC; Orlando, Florida; and Tucson, Arizona.

As national secretary of the NYEA, Mrs. Williams co-chaired the national institute held in Baltimore, Maryland, in December 2008.

Mrs. Williams, recognized as the Outstanding Member of the national organization in 2004, has participated in a number of visits to Washington, DC., to meet with members of Congress and USDA officials on behalf of agriculture. She has also represented the national organization at a number of state young farmer conferences over the years.

She is responsible for initiating a student program at the national NYEA convention known as Young Ag Leaders Event (YALE) and has arranged for students from South Carolina, Arizona, Florida and Maryland to attend and participate in this unique agricultural leadership training opportunity.

A member of the First Baptist Church of Hemingway where she serves as Senior Adult Leader, Mrs. Williams is the secretary to the local Grange and a member of the state and national organization.

McBee FFA Members Attend National Conference

***Caleb Winburn** (top left), **Megan Wayne**, **Bill Herrington**, **Kristen Wayne**, **Zach Earle** and (in front) **Amanda Tiller**, **Hali Polson**, **Calin Jowers** with **JoAnn Williams** of Britton's Neck, president-elect of the National Young Farmer Educational Association.*

Eight FFA members from the McBee High School FFA Chapter attended the National Young Farmer Education Association (NYFEA) Institute held in Baltimore, Maryland, in December 2008.

They were selected to participate in a Young Agricultural Leaders Event (YALE) sponsored by John Deere in concert with the NYFEA.

The youth program highlighted the numerous career opportunities in the science, business or technology of agriculture and emphasized methods to develop and implement a successful agricultural communications program at the local level.

In addition to the training sessions, the students were afforded an opportunity to tour Maryland's eastern shore agri-industry.

Sponsors of the trip for the McBee agricultural education students included the NYFEA Institute, the Chesterfield County School District and the McBee High School FFA organization.

W. Pat Earle, Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School, serves as the FFA advisor.

SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Awards and Sponsors

Distinguished Service
Honorable Edward L. Young
Timmonsville-Sardis Chapter
sponsor
ArborOne Financial

Outstanding Farmer
Pete Player
Lee County Chapter
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Midland Valley Chapter
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Conservation
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Sumter Chapter
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Farm Shop
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Outstanding Service
Brenda Earle
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National Agricultural Statistics Service
Piedmont Technical College
Schaeffer Specialized Lubricates
Sunbelt Ag Exposition
SC Beef Board
SC Pork Board
SC Peanut Board
SC Watermelon Association
The Truck and Trailer Store
Trisler Seed Company
Valent USA

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Annual Convention

The annual convention of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, held January 23-24, 2009, at the Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach got underway Friday evening with a Bar-B-Que dinner and entertainment by the popular musical group *Glory*.

Saturday morning activities began with a sunrise breakfast and business session. This was followed by a series of educational workshops on Orchid Production, Alternative Livestock Feeds, Controlling Resistant Weeds and the US Farm Bill.

A large crowd attended the Saturday luncheon which featured addresses by Gene Hogan, Research Director of the State Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, and State FFA Vice President Will Amick who had recently returned from a 16 day agricultural study tour of the Peoples Republic of China representing the National FFA Organization. A number of state champion agricultural production awards were also presented to association members from throughout the state.

The Saturday banquet was highlighted by the recognition of outstanding members and chapters. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to former US Congressman and past president of the association, Ed Young of Florence by Don Boice, an official with ArborOne Financial in Florence.

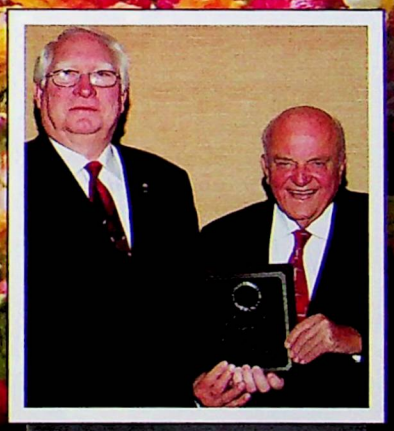
Others recognized included Pete Player of Bishopville, who was named the Outstanding Young Farmer in the state and Jeff Jones of Iva who received the State Award for the Outstanding Agribusiness. A complete list of award winners and sponsors are on page 2.

The new slate of officers announced are: President Michael Nance, McConnells; President-elect Wesley Ulmer, Lodge; Piedmont Region Vice President Jeremy Holtzclaw, Iva; Mid-State Region Vice President JEB Wilson, Chester; Pee Dee Region Vice President Patrick Norris, Bennettsville; Lower-State Region Vice President Antron Williams, Orangeburg; Executive Treasurer Edsel Williams, Britton's Neck; and Past President Jeff Sandifer, Barnwell.

A very successful auction led by auctioneer Sam Smith, an executive with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, concluded the convention.

2009 State Young Farmer & Agribusiness Officers

***Wesley Ulmer** (left seated), **Michael Nance**, **Jeff Sandifer** and **Edsel Williams**. **Patrick Norris** (left standing), **Jeremy Holtzclaw** and **Antron Williams**. Inset photo is **JEB Wilson**.*



Don Boice** (left) congratulates **Ed Young

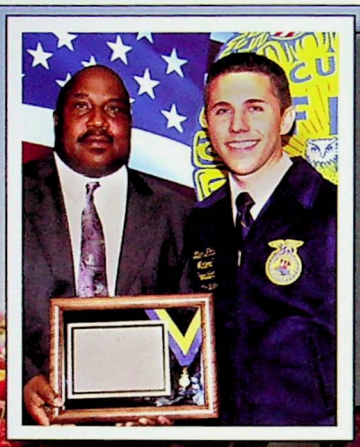
Pete Player

***Jeff Jones** (left) with **Tim Keown**, Outstanding Chapter Advisor in the state*

Honorary American FFA Degree Recipients

Six South Carolinians were named recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree during the 2008 National FFA Convention. This is the most prestigious award presented to agricultural educators and other friends and supporters of the FFA by the National FFA Organization. Dr. Curtis White, Carlin Munnerlyn, Michael Haynes and Keith Cox received their award during a special ceremony at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh E. Weathers and Alton B. Jeffords were presented the award at the 2009 SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony by Frank Saldana, executive director of the National FFA Alumni Organization.

State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh E. Weathers** (holding plaque) with State FFA Officers **Krista McCuen** (left) and **Flint Holbrook**; National FFA Alumni Official **Frank Saldana**, other State FFA Officers **Adam Gore**, **Matthew Adams**, **Will Amick** and **Caroline Sherard**.



Michael Haynes, Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Advisor at Manning High School, Manning, is congratulated by National FFA President **Zach Kinne**.

Retired Agricultural Educator **Alton B. Jeffords** (holding plaque) of Lamar with State FFA Officers **Caroline Sherard** (left), **Krista McCuen** and **Flint Holbrook**; National FFA Alumni Official **Frank Saldana**; other state FFA officers **Matthew Adams**, **Adam Gore** and **Will Amick**.

Carlin C. Munnerlyn, Clemson University Extension Service Official, Georgetown, and the first female Agricultural Education Instructor in South Carolina, is congratulated by National FFA President **Zach Kinne**.

***H. Keith Cox**, State FFA Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Clemson University, Latta, retired member of the National FFA Foundation Board.

**Keith Cox also received a Special Service Plaque as a former member of the National FFA Foundation Executive Committee.*

Dr. Curtis D. White, Professor of Agricultural Education, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, is congratulated by National FFA President **Zach Kinne**.

Holbrook Excels In Leadership and Technology

State FFA President Flint Holbrook, a senior at Clover High School, launched his participation in the FFA as a freshman when his agricultural education instructor mentioned the possibilities of biodiesel becoming a significant alternative fuel source. He researched the subject on the internet and within a few months of study and parental consent, designed and built a processor capable of producing 100 gallons per batch,

As a result of his success, Flint received recognition in the Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy Systems Proficiency Award categories sponsored by the National FFA Organization.

Flint was a recipient of the Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award presented by the South Carolina Council on Economic Education and Merrill Lynch in 2008. As a result of this award, the SC ETV Network made a video of him demonstrating the production of biodiesel and distributed it to all the high schools in South Carolina. Additionally, he was featured on the national RFD-TV Satellite Network's *FFA Today* Show and recognized by the Rock Hill-Charlotte area CN2 TV station as an *Extra Ordinary Student* with video interviews shown throughout the Thanksgiving Holiday. He has also been interviewed by a number of newspapers, other TV stations and Clemson University's multi-state NPR *Your Day* program.

A participant in the SC Cooperative Council's state, regional and national conferences as a delegate, counselor and speaker, Flint was named recipient of its Outstanding Youth Award in 2008.

In addition to meeting with former President George Bush at the White House, Flint was a guest of Clemson University President and Mrs. James Barker in the President's Box on Youth Day for a Clemson football game. He attended the 2009 State of the State Address as guest of Governor and Mrs. Mark Sanford and was also a special guest at the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in March.

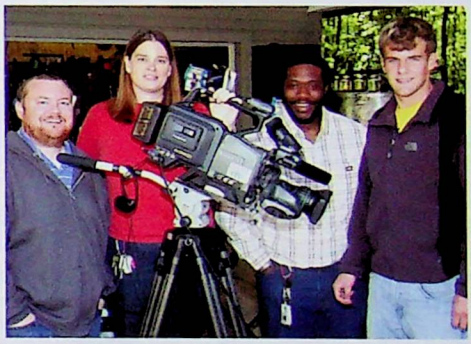
A semi-finalist in the National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking competition, Flint has addressed the National Institute for Cooperative Education, the University of Georgia Symposium on Biofuels, the SC Agricultural Educators Association, the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society, the SC Agricultural Council, the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and others.

The recipient of a number of scholarships, Flint was approved for regular admission to Clemson University but received advanced admission to the University of Kentucky, North Carolina State University, the University of Tennessee and Oklahoma State University where he has been named a College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology Scholar (CEAT). As an undergraduate Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering major, he will do extensive national and international travel including visits to Brazil, England and Japan. As a CEAT Scholar and graduate of Oklahoma State, he will be considered for several prestigious Cambridge University scholarships for graduate studies.

A member of the National Honor Society, the Distributive Education Clubs of America, the SC Agricultural Council, the SC Biomass Council, and Clover First Baptist Church, Flint played on the state champion football team in 2007 but gave up sports to serve as president of the SC FFA Association.

A son of Flint and Beverly Holbrook of Clover, his FFA advisor is Carrie Bolin, Agricultural Education Instructor at Clover High School.

***Flint Holbrook** meets with US Ambassador **Tony Hall**, former Congressman from Ohio, who was the featured speaker at the 2009 Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Columbia.*



*SC ETV staff produced a news feature on **Flint Holbrook** demonstrating the production of Biodiesel.*

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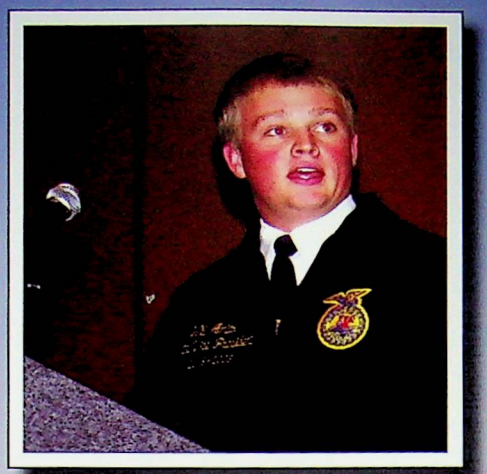
*Flint Holbrook's **AgriScribe** web site*

My Trip to China... An Experience of a Lifetime

by
Will Amick
State FFA Vice President
Lexington, SC



As one of fifty state FFA officers from throughout the nation selected by the National FFA Organization to participate in an International Agricultural Leadership Seminar in the Peoples Republic of China in January 2009, I experienced the excitement of traveling and studying in a foreign country.... truly the trip of a lifetime!

The adventure began on January 5 with a full day of orientation in San Francisco followed by our departure on January 6 for a twelve and one-half hour flight to China where we were to experienced first-hand the agriculture of a country of over one billion people.

We arrived in Beijing and began our tour by taking an easy sightseeing walk to **Tiananmen Square**, the largest city square in the world and the place where Mao's Mausoleum is located.

Following our first Chinese breakfast, we spent the morning sightseeing in the **Forbidden City**, the largest and best preserved Imperial Palace complex in the world. We also got to see the **Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium** and visit the **American Embassy** in official dress where we were briefed by a USDA agricultural attaché. In the evening we enjoyed a special **Peking Duck Banquet.**

The next day was spent entirely visiting agri-industries, including the largest **organic vegetable farm** in the world, a **marsh gas station** and a **nursery garden.** After a one hour drive, our group visited a large **cattle farm** which provides 70 percent of the beef to the Beijing market. We also visited the **largest flower farm and greenhouses** in Beijing, including a stop at the **Xinfadi Agricultural Products Wholesale Market** which covers 150,000 square meters.

The fourth day of the adventure began by climbing the **Great Wall of China** which was built during the period of 475-221 BC and is one of the seven wonders of the world. We also visited the famous **Cloisonne factory** in Beijing. We spent overnight on a train to **Xian.** That day began with an early breakfast followed by visits to some very important historical sights including the 2180 year-old buried army of **Emperor Qin Shi Huang.** A visit to the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda** was followed by a bike ride along the **Ancient City Walls.** The day ended with dinner at the **Tang Dynasty Show.**

The next day we visited the **Northwest A & F University** in Yangling, one of the most famous agriculture universities in China and actually conversed with faculty and students. While in Yangling, we visited the area where Chinese agricultural civilization had its beginning and toured the **National Agriculture High-Tech Industry Demonstration Zone** and **student experimental fields.**

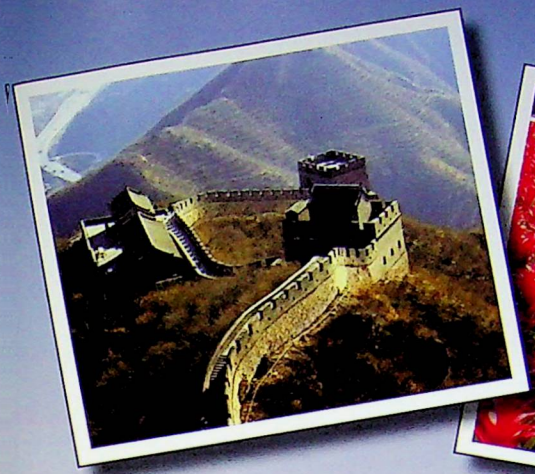
Early the next day, we traveled to Shanghai to visit the **Sun Qiao Modern Agri-Development Zone.** Our next stop was at the **China Dairy Museum** to learn about the Chinese dairy industry. Later in the afternoon, we drove for two hours to Suzhou, the "Venice of the East" with an extensive network of canals, beautiful gardens and the Silk Capital of China.

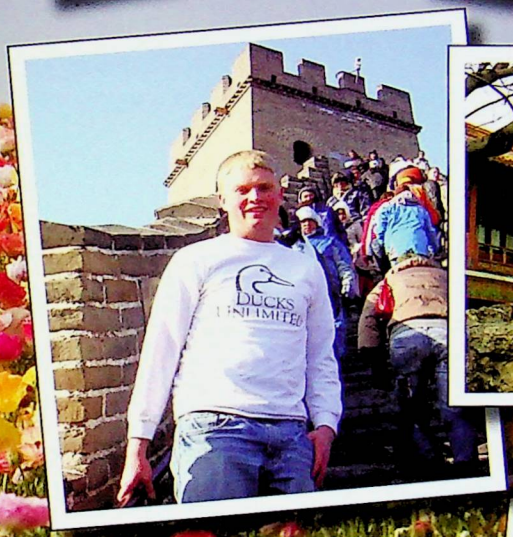
The next day began with a visit to a **large dairy farm and milk processing system** followed by a stop at the **Suzhou Vegetable Research Institute.** After lunch we took a boat **cruise on a canal** and toured the **Suzhou Silk Institute.**

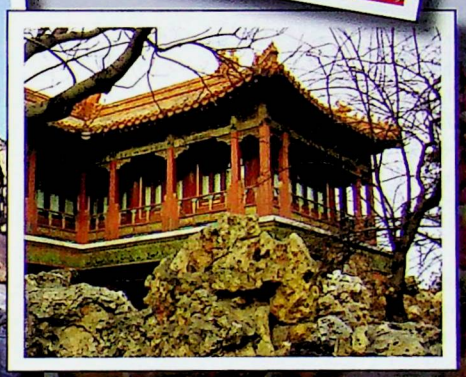
Our final full day in China included meeting with a representative from **Westfalia Surge, now GEA,** to learn about their operation there. Then it was

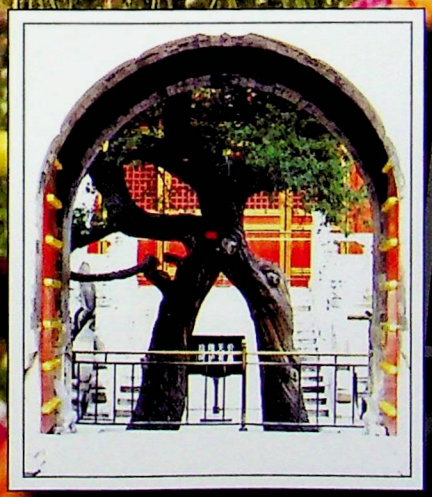
continued on page 7...

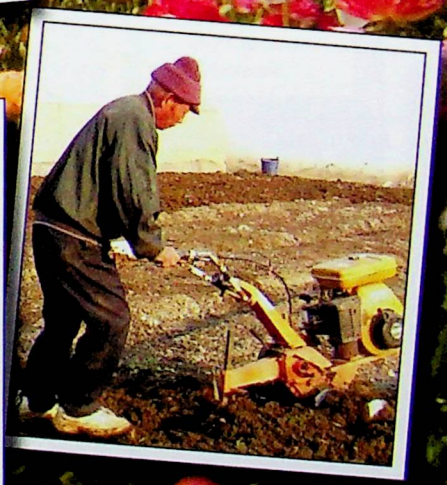
Will with parents Dell and Blake Amick at China Trip Sponsors Appreciation Breakfast.











off to the **You Garden** with a history of 400 years and more than 30 halls and pavilions. Additional sightseeing included **Nanjung Road,** one of the busiest shopping streets in China and a stroll on the **Bund,** Shanghai's famous waterfront. Our China travel seminar ended with a **Farewell Dinner** and evening performance of **Chinese Acrobats.**

On Friday, January 16, we departed **Shanghai** for our return trip to San Francisco and home. During that time, I had the unique opportunity to reflect on my experience from an international perspective. I realized more than ever what it means be an American…. to live in a land blessed with agricultural abundance….and enjoy so many freedoms we often take for granted. It was also on that flight that I fully comprehended the significance of being affiliated with the world's premier agricultural youth organization…the FFA!

I am keenly aware that the FFA has inspired me to reach for the stars in my quest for excellence in life. As a result of that commitment, I look forward with great anticipation to a successful career in the green industry….and serving my state and nation as a proud agricultural leader.

A major portion of the cost of Will's trip to China was contributed by individuals, local and state agricultural and conservation organizations and Lexington County agribusinesses. An appreciation breakfast was held for representatives of the co-sponsors at the Capital City Club on National Agriculture Day, March 20, where Will gave an informative and inspiring power point presentation on his trip. Editor

FFA Members Attend State Legislators Event

The SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Day was held in Columbia on February 25. Activities got underway with a breakfast for the state FFA officers, the Clemson Collegiate FFA officers and guests at the Capital City Club co-sponsored by the SC Agricultural Council and John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA organization. Bert Bagley, president of the council and an official with John Deere, addressed the group.

Following breakfast, the state officers joined more than 1000 other students of agricultural education from throughout the state to visit members of the General Assembly and attend the Legislators Appreciation Ceremony on the north steps of the State Capitol. The event is always held during National FFA Week.

The ceremony got underway at 11 AM with State FFA President Flint Holbrook presiding. The Manning FFA Color Guard presented the Colors and Manning FFA officer Leon Lee sang the National Anthem.

Frank Saldana, executive director of the National FFA Alumni Organization, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, presented the coveted American FFA Degree to Calhoun Falls Charter School FFA members Cody Brown and Patrick Shea. State Representative Paul Agnew of Abbeville assisted in the presentation.

Mr. Saldana also presented the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree to State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers of Bowman and retired Agricultural Educator Alton B. Jeffords of Lamar. Their schedule prevented them from attending the National FFA Convention to receive the award.

State Representative Jeffrey Duncan, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented the state FFA officer team a Concurrent Resolution of Recognition and Commendation on behalf of the SC General Assembly

State Senator Danny Verdin, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented the officers with a Proclamation by Governor Mark Sanford designating February 21-28 as FFA Week in South Carolina.

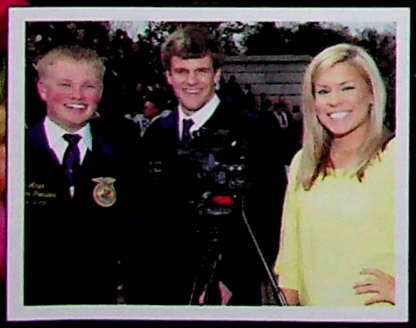
Following the ceremony, approximately 500 FFA members and supporters attended a FFA Week Celebration Luncheon at the State Fairgrounds. Nancy Smith, associate director of the State Fair, and State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers welcomed the group. National FFA Alumni Executive Director Frank Saldana was the keynote speaker at that event.

*Senator **Danny Verdin** (second from left) of Laurens, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented a Proclamation signed by Governor **Mark Sanford** designating February 21-38, 2009, as FFA Week in South Carolina, to state FFA officers **Krista McCuen** (left), **Adam Gore**, **Flint Holbrook**, **Matthew Adams**, **Will Amick** and **Caroline Sherard**.*

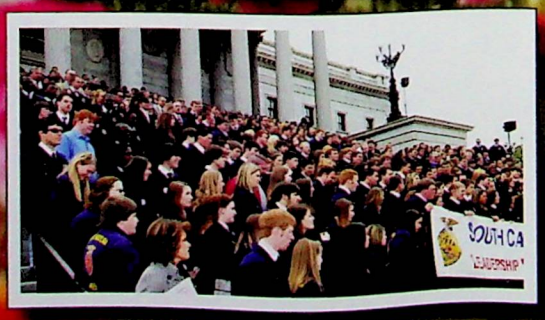
*State Representative **Jeff Duncan** (third from left) of Laurens, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented a Concurrent Resolution approved by the SC General Asssembly to state FFA officers. The Resolution commended South Carolina's FFA members and advisors for the outstanding Agricultural Education programs in the state.*

Bert Bagley** (left) and **Flint Holbrook

***Frank Saldana** (left), **Cody Brown**, **Patrick Shea**, State Rep. **Paul Agnew** and State FFA Vice President **Caroline Sherard**.*



*State FFA officers **Will Amick** (left) and **Flint Holbrook** with **Sarah Jane Harris**, a reporter for WACH-TV Fox network. Other TV stations also reported the event.*



Presentation of Flowers Ceremony at State Capitol

Flint Holbrook (left), State Commissioner of Agriculture ***Hugh Weathers****, State Representative* ***Jeff Duncan****,* ***Pat Black****, Senator* ***Danny Verdin*** *and* ***Allen Williams****.*

State FFA Officers ***Matthew Adams*** *(left),* ***Adam Gore****,* ***Flint Holbrook****,* ***Will Amick****,* ***Krista McCuen*** *and* ***Caroline Sherard****.*

Pat Black

A ceremony in Columbia on April 1, 2009, was highlighted by the presentation of more than 300 flats of spring bedding plants to landscape the grounds adjacent the State Capitol. The plants were grown and contributed by FFA members who are enrolled in Horticulture, Greenhouse Management or Landscape Technology courses taught by Agricultural Education instructors in secondary schools throughout South Carolina.

The *Presentation of Flowers Ceremony*, an annual community service project of the SC FFA Association and the State Agricultural Educators organization, caught the attention of visitors, governmental officials and the news media as they observed the beautiful plants on display across a portion of the north steps of the State Capitol.

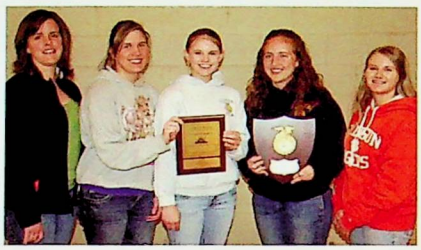
Officials participating in the ceremony included State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers of Bowman; State Senator Danny Verdin, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Laurens; and State Representative Jeff Duncan, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, of Clinton; Dr. Laurie C. Lawson, Office of Public Service and Agriculture with Clemson University, Darlington; Allen Williams, president of the SC Agricultural Educators organization, Wagener; Billy Keels, state director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University, Columbia; Pat Black, Agricultural Educator at Branchville High School, who presided; and State FFA President Flint Holbrook, Clover; State Vice President Will Amick, Lexington; and State Vice President Matthew Adams, Hamer and Clemson University. Other state officers in attendance were Secretary Adam Gore, Loris; Vice Presidents Caroline Sherard, Abbeville; and Krista McCuen, Gloverville. John W. Parris, state director of public affairs for agricultural education in South Carolina, planned and coordinated the event.

The state champion FFA Floriculture team and the state champion Nursery-Landscape team from the Lexington Technology Center were among the other special guests in attendance.

State FFA Career Development Event Champions

Abbeville FFA Dairy Team to Compete In National Finals

The Abbeville FFA Dairy Evaluation team and Advisor Fred Raines will represent SC in the finals at the 2009 National Convention. They are sponsored by the Clemson Spring Dairy Show and the SC FFA Foundation. The York team placed second and Saluda was third. *Pictured at left from Abbeville:* **Amy Williams** *(left), Agricultural Education senior at Clemson;* **Kristy Durham** *(high scorer),* **Ronnie Cann**, **Devan Herron**, **Fred Raines** *and* **Kaitlin Smith**.



Clover FFA Livestock Team Headed to National Finals

The Clover FFA Livestock Evaluation team and Advisor Carrie Bolin will represent SC in the finals at the 2009 National Convention. They are sponsored by the SC FFA Foundation. The York team was state Runner-up and the Crescent team placed third. *Pictured at right from Clover:* **Carrie Bolin** *(left),* **Brittany Stewart**, **Leslie McGill**, **Lauren McGill** *and* **Jennifer Haas**.

Lextington FFA Floriculture Team In National Finals

The Lexington FFA Floriculture team and Advisor Tommy Harmon will represent SC in the finals at the 2009 National Convention. They are sponsored by the SC FFA Foundation. Rock Hill Applied Technology Center was state Runner-up and Strom Thurmond Technology Center placed third. *Pictured at left from Lexington:* **Tommy Harmon** *(left);* **Casey Blanton**, **Jacob Brown**, *Clemson Agricultural Education senior* **Jeffrey Epps**, **Hannah Kyzer** *and* **Andi Massinello**.

Lexington FFA Nursery-Landscape Team In National Finals

The Lexington Technology Center FFA Nursery-Landscape team and Advisor Tommy Harmon will represent SC in the finals at the 2009 National Convention. They are sponsored by the SC FFA Foundation. The Anderson I & II Technology Center team was state Runner-up and the Pendleton team placed third. *Pictured at right from Lexington:* **Tommy Harmon** *(left);* **Tim Roark**; *Clemson Agricultural Education senior* **Jeffrey Epps**; **Amanda Kyzer**, **Dillin Price** *and* **Blaine Clarkson**.

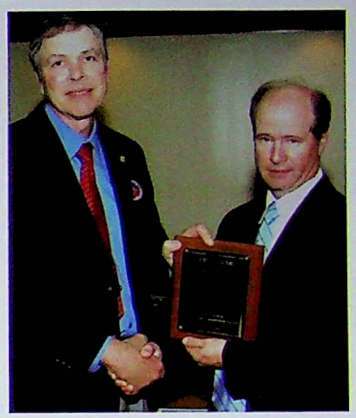
Pelion FFA Wildlife Team Take Top State Honors

The Pelion FFA Wildlife Management team and Advisor Frank R. Stover were awarded an expense-paid trip to the 2009 National Convention by Horry-Georgetown Technical College as state champions. The Abbeville team was state Runner-up and the Belton-Honea Path team placed third. *Pictured at left from Pelion:* ***Dakota Woodcock*** *(left),* ***Jeff Wise, Samantha Hinson, Becky Walker*** *and Advisor* ***Frank R. Stover.***

More FFA News...

***Manning** FFA President **Kiera Walker** welcomes State Senator **Clementa C. Pinckney** of Ridgeland, SC, who addressed the Manning High School Student Body during a National FFA Week ceremony. **Michael Haynes**, Agricultural Education instructor, serves as FFA advisor.*

***Hugh Bland** (left), Agricultural Education instructor at the **Strom Thurmond Technology Center** is the recipient of the 2009 State Conservation Education Merit Award sponsored by the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society of America. The award was presented by **Hugh Smith**, president-elect of the SC Society.*



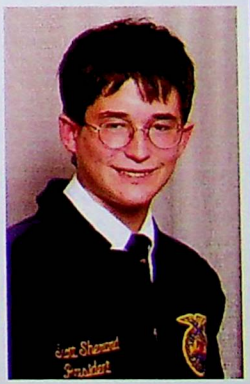
***Emmanuel Bankston**, president of the **Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence** FFA Chapter, is one of two SC Farm Bureau Youth Ambassadors for 2009. He was awarded $500 in cash, a $2000 scholarship and an Apple iPod.*
*A senior a Battery Creek High School, Emmanuel will be attending Clemson later this year. His FFA advisor is **Robin Beasley.***

*As a highlight of the observance of National FFA Week, **Anderson** FFA Officers **Anna Copelan** (left), **Annakate Waters** and **Aly Austin** planned and coordinated the presentation of gift-filled Ag-Baskets of South Carolina products and information on agriculture to District Superintendent **Betty Bagley**; T. L. Hanna Principal **Shelia Hinson**; Westside Principal **Henry Adair**; Westside Assistant Principal **David Presley**; and Hanna-Westside Extension Campus Principal **Cathy Shaw**.*

Contributors to the success of the project included AgSouth ACA, Spartanburg Community College, SC Peanut Board, SC Department of Agriculture and Clemson University.

Ariel Fox**, a senior at **Batesburg-Leesville** High School and president of the local FFA chapter, is South Carolina's Miss FFA for 2009. She competed against 31 contestants from FFA chapters throughout the state at a pageant at Crescent High School in January. The event was planned and coordinated by the Crescent FFA Chapter along with a number of sponsors and volunteers. Her FFA advisor is **Libby H. Templeton.

***Scott Sherard**, president of the **Calhoun Falls Charter School** FFA Chapter, won the State Ag Day Essay Competition held in conjunction with the observance of National Ag Day, March 20, 2009.*
He was also the 2008 state winner in the FFA AgriScience Fair and competed in the national finals at the National FFA Convention.
*The son of **Calvert** and **Suzie Sherard** of Abbeville, Scott's FFA advisor is **Kyle Hatcher.***



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New Wildlife Management Program

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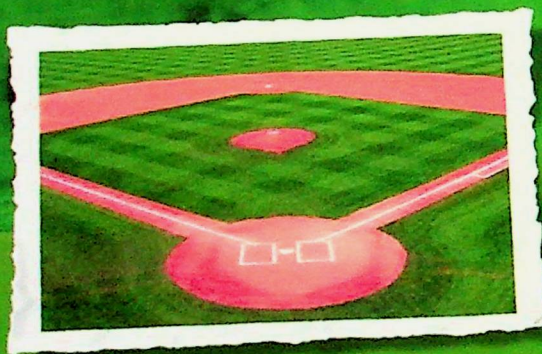

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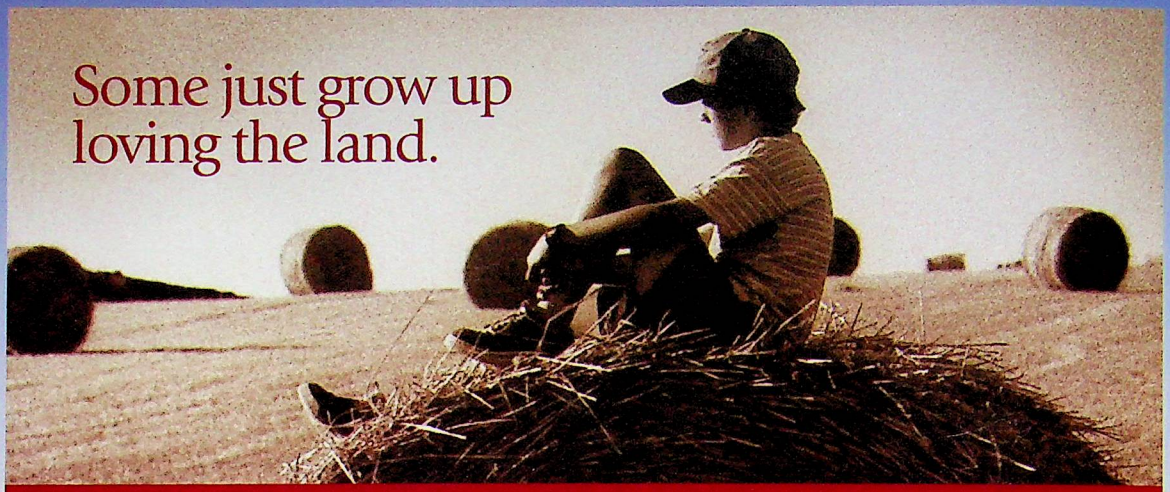

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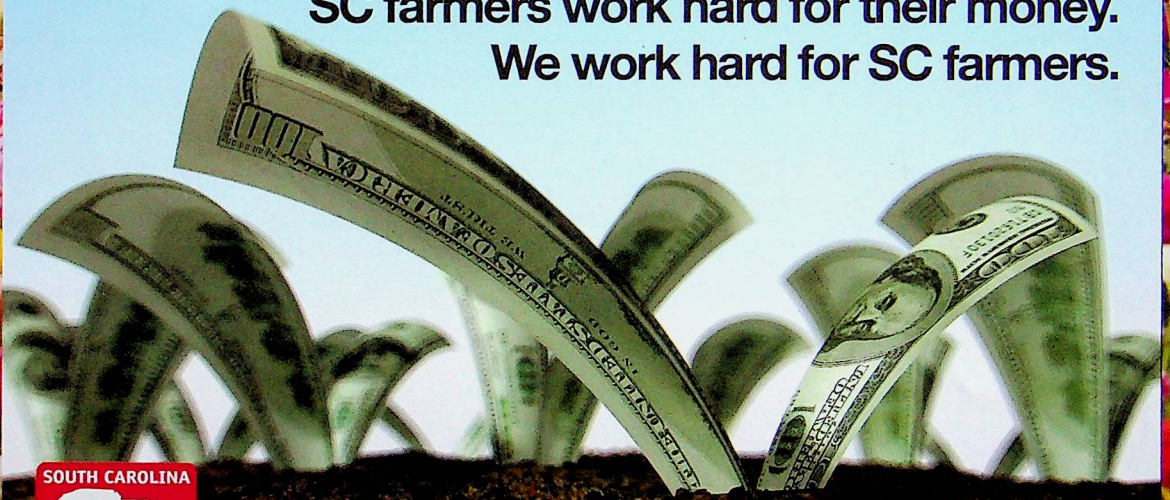

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